

IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 22, the market specification console further comprising a plurality of rules wherein at least one rule is user-modifiable.

10. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 9, wherein rules comprise the at least one market protocols.

11. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 9, wherein the market specification console includes a graphic user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

12. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphic user interface.

13. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the user defines arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

14. – 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A universal auction specification system comprising:

a market specification console configured to receive at least one market protocol from a user, the at least one market protocol including trading primitives to dictate the behavior of the universal auction system with respect to a plurality of goods ~~offered~~ auctioned by a plurality of auction participants; and

a programmable auction server coupled to the market specification console via a network connection, the programmable auction server to receive the at least one market protocol defined

by the market specification console, the programmable auction server to implement at least one of the trading primitives to deploy the universal auction system and to manage trading of the plurality of goods ~~offered~~ auctioned by the plurality of auction participants in the universal auction system.

23. (Canceled)